

January 3, 2012

A2012-124

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

We strongly appeal the Balm Post Office's closing. It has been a landmark in our community for over a century; and still to this day, we have been provided superior service since moving to Balm 26 years ago. After reviewing the Summary (Docket # 1353954, item #47, pg 11), it still would not be favorable to close the Balm Post Office. The Summary section mentions that \$84,241 will be saved annually. We understand the objective is to save money, but you cannot consider a Career Employee's salary in the equation when the plan is to move him/her to another location. The only savings to consider would be the building's \$8,400 annual lease. So again, please consider the age of the structure. The community views it as a historical landmark that should remain opened for business. The attempt to save \$84,241 and alleviate your losses is highly immaterial compared to the net loss of \$8,505 million shown in the Postal Service's 2010 Financial Statements; furthermore, the hope for savings after shutting down the Balm Post office is again immaterial compared to the employee health benefits, which will not expire until 2016. Fuel expenses are also increasing your expenses. It doesn't seem practical or efficient to shut down the Post Office, where consumers travel to receive the product or services, and instead having Postal employees travel to 261 locations (the amount of P.O. Boxes) to provide the delivery of retail services in our community. Also please note, our neighboring subdivision continues to expand; once more homes are built in our area, it will be more than likely that a demand for Postal retail and services will be essential at the site. Thank you again for your consideration and review to keep Balm Post Office operating.

Thank You,

George & Marilyn Fears

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JAN 05 2012

Office of PAGR